

GLOBAL WARMING

Turning Up the Heat

Guide by
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a 46 minute video

Produced by Daniel Zuckerbrot
for CBC's "The Nature of Things"

Hosted by David Suzuki

GLOBAL WARMING questions why nothing has been done about an issue as serious as global warming, despite warmings from scientists and environmentalists that it poses a major threat. Guests include Henry Kendall, Nobel Laureate in physics, Stephen Leatherman, Director of the University of Maryland Coastal Research Laboratory; Jim Bruce, Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change; and government representatives. The video examines how human activity has contributed to recent unusual heat waves, flooding and droughts around the world, and looks at some of the ingenious solutions that are now being developed to alleviate these problems.

Subjects

Global Warming • Chemistry • Meteorology •
Ecology • Oceanography • STS • Environmental
Studies • Political Science • Economics •
Global Issues

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Topic Summary

Global Warming refers to a potential rise in worldwide climatic temperature. The rise in temperature has been linked to the emission of carbon into the atmosphere through the excessive use of fossil fuels. The predicted effects of the change will be catastrophic. The warming apparently melts polar ice caps, inducing a rise in ocean levels. The preponderance of scientific evidence suggests that this will cause small islands as well as coastlines to be inundated with ocean water, displacing millions of people from their homes. Indications are that the rise in temperature will also lead to extreme weather occurrences as the climate rapidly adjusts. The future holds global economic collapse and the eradication of ecosystems if these predictions are correct, and no alternative measures are taken.

Questions: Before Viewing

1. What is global warming?
2. Why is it an important contemporary political and environmental problem?
3. What are the causes of global warming?
4. What are its effects?

After Viewing

1. Re-examine questions
2. Move into Discussion Suggestions

Discussion Suggestions

1. Discuss the possible reasons why governments have not taken firmer steps towards eliminating the problem.
2. Determine feasible daily activities that an individual could perform to help alleviate the pressures brought about by the causes and/ or effects of global warming.
3. Consider the practicality of alternative sources of power.
4. Examine possible national or global solutions.
5. Debate the economic effects of increased global warming versus the economic effects of changing policy to alleviate the environmental effects.
6. Postulate future global environmental, political, and social conditions after global warming has run its course.

Student Activities -- Web Sites

<http://www.letus.nwu.edu/projects/gw/>

www.smate.wvu.edu/teched/glob-wrm.html

Resources For Further Research

Web Sites

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/index.html>

www.law.pace.edu/env/energy/globalwarming.html

www.columbia.edu/cu/21stC/issue-1.1/global.htm

solar-center.stanford.edu/sun-on-earth/glob-warm.html

www.globalchange.org/

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/climate_change/index.cfm

www.westernfuels.org

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/brief.asp>

www.nytimes.com/library/national/warming-index.html

www.erols.com/dhoyt1/annex11.htm

www.unfccc.de/

Books

The Hat Is On: The High Stakes Battle Over Earth's Threatened Climate

By Ross Gelbspan

Addison- Wesley, 1997; 304 pp.

The End of Nature

By Bill McKibben

Random House, 1989; 226 pp.

Soft-cover, Anchor, 1990; 226 pp.

Laboratory Earth: The Planetary Gamble We Can't Afford to Lose

By Stephen H. Schneider

HarperCollins, 1997; 176 pp.

Sound and Fury: The Science and Politics of
Global Warming

By Patrick J. Michaels

Cato Institute, 1992; 196 pp.

The Heated Debate: Greenhouse Predictions
Versus Climate Reality

By Robert C. Balling

Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy,
1992; 195 pp.; soft-cover, 1993; 195 pp.

Hot Air, Gold Science: Global Warming's
Unfinished Debate

By S. Fred Singer

Independent Institute, 1997; 100 pp.

World Resources

By The World Resources Institute in collabora-
tion with The United Nations Environment
Program and The United Nations Development
Program

Oxford University Press, NY.

Published annually.

Related Bullfrog Titles

Subject 1: Atmosphere- Climate Change

Cooperating For Clean Air

37 min. Grade 7- Adult

Sweden has responded to effects of acid precipitation through clean air initiatives.

Gaia: The Living Planet

45 min. Grade 9- Adult

The Gaia Hypothesis, developed by 20th century scientist James Lovelock, involving the belief that the Earth is a living organism, is examined.

Once and Future Planet

23 min. Grade 7- Adult

The film looks at global warming through a joint U. S.- former Soviet research voyage.

Subject 2: Energy

Race for the Future

21 min. Grade 7- Adult

The picture documents four major competitions for solar and electric cars.